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## Honor the Earth Tour ends with concert in Keshena

By Liona Tucker-May  
Menominee Nation News

KESHENA, Wis. — On Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, several famous musicians sang in honor of our Menominee sister, Ingrid Washinawatok, who was killed in Colombia in 1999.

The Honor the Earth concert tour ended with a special show at the Menominee Indian High School,

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### Notice

Seventeen of the twenty-five candidates returned the candidate questionnaires by the specified deadline established by the *Menominee Nation News*. Of those, three candidates chose to submit their own profiles which are published verbatim.

We hope the inclusion of the candidate profiles will give our readers a better understanding of the candidates and the issues they feel are of importance in the Menominee community to date.

*Yvonne M. Matson, Editor*  
Menominee Nation News



Washinawatok

*Honor the Earth Tour 2000* made its final stop in Keshena, the performance was held at MIHS in honor of Menominee Heroine, Ingrid Washinawatok's memory. Pictured is (l-r): Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, along with Jackson Browne.

L. Tucker/MNN

## Gov. Thompson not publicly supporting Casino, but willing to negotiate

Special to MNN  
Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — Although Gov. Tommy Thompson has not publicly endorsed a proposal by the Menominee Nation to open a casino here, an environmental assessment on the project indicates he will approve it.

While outlining the government approval process needed for the casino,

the assessment says, "We are advised that the governor of Wisconsin will give his approval for this action."

Madison consulting firm Applied Environmental Sciences Inc. prepared the assessment for the tribe and its non-Indian investor group, NII-JII Entertainment L.L.C.

Despite the assessment, Tony Jewell, the governor's press secretary, said the governor has not made up his

mind.

"There has to be local support and it has to be approved by the BIA," said Jewell.

"Then they have to negotiate with the Department of Administration at the state level. Then and only then, when it has come to the governor's

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## HONOR:

where hundreds of family, friends and community members gathered to listen to the music and honor the memory of Washinawatok.

The night started out with a local performer, Wade Fernandez, after walking quietly to the stage he said "I always wanted to walk on this stage with an envelope and say, 'and the Menominee's are . . . ' " pausing with a laugh he then said, "that's my first opportunity to say that."

Fernandez' performance, with his soulful music style, captivated the hearts of the audience as he sang one of his songs during a slide show that projected a few moments in Washinawatok's memorable life. Next to perform was Annie Humphrey, whose beautiful voice carried throughout the theater. Humphrey started out singing a song that she had written with her mom, "It's about people who've changed history from Columbus to today, many are not gonna make the history books, but we know who they are," Humphrey said.

She closed out her performance with a woman's healing song in memory of Ingrid.

After Humphrey's performance Winona LaDuke, the Green Party vice-presidential candidate, spoke about the reasons behind the Honor the Earth Tour. The national native foundation raises money for native and environmental land organizations, which La Duke is the director of. LaDuke was also the co-chairperson for the Indigenous Women's Network with Ingrid, which is one of the tours sponsors. "Ingrid made an immense difference . . . She did the work cause she loved the communities and she loved life," said LaDuke.

Other speakers during the night were Apesanahkwat - Menominee Tribal Chairman, Ken Fish-Menominee Mining Impacts Director and Steve Dodge- Ingrid's cousin. Winona Thunderbird, of the Thunderbird Sisters, made a brief and unplanned appearance and sang the song, Fighting Woman Spirit, in memory of her friend Ingrid. She left the audience speechless. As they applauded, she thanked them and introduced the next performer Jackson Browne, before leaving the stage. Browne began his set with an upbeat tune, performing World In Motion, and then performed his next song with Fernandez. The crowd responded with pride for their fellow Menominees' brilliant duet with the national star. Browne spoke highly of Washinawatok and honored her by including her in his lyrics.

A video was presented shortly after Browne finished his last song of the night. The video showed Washinawatok speaking at various events. "It's heart wrenching, some of these kids don't know what it means to be Menominee," she said. "I'm not a scholar, I'm just a 'rez' girl who grew up in Chicago and has been living out in New York doing some work for the people." The Indigo Girls spoke briefly about the tour and its meaning before the start of the show. Both Emily Saliers and Amy Ray had known Washinawatok for about 6-7 years before her tragic death. "Its a perfect

place to end the tour, in Ingrid's homeland," Ray commented.

This is the 7th tour for Honor the Earth. "It went really well," said Ray about this years tour, that started in Montana in September and moved its way west. "Menominee has it together in so many ways," she stated. "We want to get the public connected in what's happening in different communities," said Saliers on the reason for their taking part, "We are environmental activists, its about being concerned about what's around you."

As the performers took the stage Saliers spoke to the audience saying, "This is a song about love – that's what Ingrid reminds me of, just love, love, love . . ."

After the Indigo Girls performance, all of the tour performers gathered together on the stage to do one final song. Afterwards guests, friends, family and community members stood and applauded the talented singers. Gina Washinawatok, Ingrid's sister, thanked everyone for coming to the event, and a special honor song was done by the Menominee High School Singers. Many of the performers and speakers also made an appearance earlier in the day at Crandon, showing their support for the opposition in the first day of legal battles between Nicolet Minerals Co. and the Town of Nashville town board. The Honor the Earth Tour left many with a great memory. All in all, it was a powerful performance that left a powerful message.

GOVERNOR:

desk, will he negotiate."

In order to secure approval by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the assessment has to be completed as well as public comment gathered. The assessment, mostly drawn from a 1998 study of the project's economic impact, says the environmental consequences would be 'primarily socioeconomic.' Also, few of the 3,500 employees would be Menominee who live on the tribe's reservation around Keshena, the assessment says.

The tribe plans to charter a new corporation, called Kenosha Gaming Authority, to own the dog track, as well as the accompanying kennels. NII-JII will operate the casino.